

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 011061
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:MSTERNER/HLK
APPROVED BY NEA - ALFRED L. ATHERTON, JR.
S/S-O:JETHYDEN

-----019042 151912Z /45

P 151852Z JAN 78 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 011061

NODIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PGOV, IS, EG, US

SUBJECT: BEGIN'S MOOD--AN INCIPIENT CRISIS OF CONFIDENCE

1. FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM TELEGRAM WE RECEIVED TODAY
FROM AMBASSADOR LEWIS WHICH WE BELIEVE WILL BE USEFUL
FOR YOUR BACKGROUND AND IN YOUR CONTINUING EFFORTS WITH
GOE TO CONVEY REALITY OF POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE IN ISRAEL.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

ALTHOUGH I HAVE JUST RECEIVED THE VERY WELCOME NEWS THAT
THE CABINET DECIDED THIS MORNING TO ACCEPT OUR FORMULATION
OF THE LANGUAGE FOR POINT B OF THE AGENDA, WITH THE VERY
MINOR ADDITION ONLY OF THE WORDS "ISSUES OF THE" BEFORE
"WEST BANK AND GAZA", WE SHOULD NOT BE MISLED BY THIS
FAVORABLE OUTCOME AND ASSUME THAT ALL IS ROSY HERE. MY
CONVERSATION WITH BEGIN IN THE WEE HOURS OF THE MORNING

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 011061

JANUARY 15 WAS REVEALING IN THE EXTREME. AND RABBI
SCHINDLER HAS TOLD ME ABOUT HIS CONVERSATION WITH BEGIN AT
0830 THIS MORNING, AT WHICH HE WAS APPARENTLY EVEN MORE
EMOTIONAL AND EMBATTLED IN MOOD THAN HE HAD BEEN A FEW
HOURS EARLIER. THAT MOOD WILL UNDOUBTEDLY CONTINUE TO SOME
EXTENT THROUGH THE NEXT FEW DAYS AND WILL CAST SOMETHING
OF A SHADOW OVER THE WORK OF THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE,

ASSUMING IT NOW CAN BE CONVENED.

3. BEGIN'S MOOD IS COMPOUNDED REALLY OF TWO ELEMENTS: RESENTMENT AND INCREASING ANGER AT SADAT FOR HIS PERSONAL ATTACKS ON BEGIN IN THE LAST TWO OR THREE DAYS, MIXED WITH A SENSE OF BAFFLEMENT THAT SADAT STILL DOES NOT UNDERSTAND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF BEGIN'S OFFER TO RESTORE ALL OF SINAI TO EGYPTIAN SOVEREIGNTY IN THE FACE OF RISING AND VEHEMENT OPPOSITION FROM BOTH THE OPPOSITION HERE AND KEY MEMBERS OF HIS OWN PARTY. BEGIN ALWAYS ASSUMED THAT THIS WAS A NEGOTIATING PROCESS WHICH WAS JUST BEGINNING, AND THAT SADAT WOULD SEE HIS SWEEPING OFFER ON SINAI AS TO A DEGREE COMMENSURATE WITH SADAT'S EPOCHAL DECISION TO COME TO JERUSALEM. WEIZMAN HAS UNDOUBTEDLY DESCRIBED TO BEGIN IN DETAIL HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH SADAT, AND THE AMIABLE ATMOSPHERE OF THOSE CONVERSATIONS, COMBINED WITH THE FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE AT ISMAILIA, SEEM TO HAVE LED BEGIN TO BELIEVE THAT SADAT WAS AGREEING WITH HIM A GREAT DEAL MORE THAN WAS THE CASE.

4. THE STORIES NOW BEGINNING TO SURFACE HERE FROM ROY ATHERTON'S BACKGROUNDER ABOUT SECRETARY VANCE'S INTENTION TO PUT FORWARD A U.S. PROPOSAL ON THE WEST BANK AND GAZA PROBLEM ONLY FEED FURTHER BEGIN'S SENSE OF BEING EMBATTLED, UNDERCUT, AND PRESSURED UNFAIRLY.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 011061

5. I DON'T WANT TO BE OVERLY DRAMATIC. BUT I AM CERTAIN THAT WHEN HE WAS AWAKENED OUT OF A DEEP SLEEP EARLY THIS MORNING I WAS HEARING HIS TRUE REACTIONS WITHOUT CALCULATION. AND THEY SIGNIFY A DEEPLY TROUBLED PRIME MINISTER, WHO BELIEVES HE HAS GONE VERY FAR AND VERY FAST AT THE EXPENSE OF THE APPROBATION OF HIS OLDEST FRIENDS AND TO SOME EXTENT HIS OLDEST CONVICTIONS. HE FEELS THAT NEITHER SADAT NOR CARTER UNDERSTAND NOR CREDIT HIM FOR WHAT HE HAS DONE, AND ARE TAKING UNFAIR ADVANTAGE OF HIM AT THIS MOMENT.

6. WE KNOW ENOUGH ABOUT BEGIN'S CHARACTERISTIC PERSONALITY TRAITS TO HAVE REASON TO FEAR THAT HIS REACTION TO THESE PERCEPTIONS WILL BE TO BECOME MORE COMBATIVE RATHER THAN LESS. I HOPE THAT COOLER HEADS WILL PREVAIL. IN THIS SITUATION, I BELIEVE VERY STRONGLY THAT SECRETARY VANCE'S PERSONALITY AND FRIENDSHIP FOR BEGIN CAN BE A MAJOR FACTOR IN STEADYING THE SITUATION. THEREFORE I THINK IT IS DOUBLY IMPORTANT THAT THE SECRETARY RESCHEDULE HIS TRIP AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. END TEXT. VANCE

SECRET

NNN

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 011061
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

66011

DRAFTED BY:S/S:JETHYDEN:WES

APPROVED BY:S/S:JETHYDEN

-----019215 152125Z /73

O 152110Z JAN 78 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 011061

NODIS

FOR Z. BRZEZINSKI

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 011061 ACTION CAIRO JAN 15.

QUOTE: S E C R E T STATE 011061

NODIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PGOV, IS, EG, US

SUBJECT: BEGIN'S MOOD--AN INCIPIENT CRISIS OF CONFIDENCE

1. FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM TELEGRAM WE RECEIVED TODAY
FROM AMBASSADOR LEWIS WHICH WE BELIEVE WILL BE USEFUL
FOR YOUR BACKGROUND AND IN YOUR CONTINUING EFFORTS WITH
GOE TO CONVEY REALITY OF POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE IN ISRAEL.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

ALTHOUGH I HAVE JUST RECEIVED THE VERY WELCOME NEWS THAT
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 011061

THE CABINET DECIDED THIS MORNING TO ACCEPT OUR FORMULATION OF THE LANGUAGE FOR POINT B OF THE AGENDA, WITH THE VERY MINOR ADDITION ONLY OF THE WORDS "ISSUES OF THE" BEFORE "WEST BANK AND GAZA", WE SHOULD NOT BE MISLED BY THIS FAVORABLE OUTCOME AND ASSUME THAT ALL IS ROSY HERE. MY CONVERSATION WITH BEGIN IN THE WEE HOURS OF THE MORNING JANUARY 15 WAS REVEALING IN THE EXTREME. AND RABBI SCHINDLER HAS TOLD ME ABOUT HIS CONVERSATION WITH BEGIN AT 0830 THIS MORNING, AT WHICH HE WAS APPARENTLY EVEN MORE EMOTIONAL AND EMBATTLED IN MOOD THAN HE HAD BEEN A FEW HOURS EARLIER. THAT MOOD WILL UNDOUBTEDLY CONTINUE TO SOME EXTENT THROUGH THE NEXT FEW DAYS AND WILL CAST SOMETHING OF A SHADOW OVER THE WORK OF THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE,

ASSUMING IT NOW CAN BE CONVENED.

3. BEGIN'S MOOD IS COMPOUNDED REALLY OF TWO ELEMENTS: RESENTMENT AND INCREASING ANGER AT SADAT FOR HIS PERSONAL ATTACKS ON BEGIN IN THE LAST TWO OR THREE DAYS, MIXED WITH A SENSE OF BAFFLEMENT THAT SADAT STILL DOES NOT UNDERSTAND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF BEGIN'S OFFER TO RESTORE ALL OF SINAI TO EGYPTIAN SOVEREIGNTY IN THE FACE OF RISING AND VEHEMENT OPPOSITION FROM BOTH THE OPPOSITION HERE AND KEY MEMBERS OF HIS OWN PARTY. BEGIN ALWAYS ASSUMED THAT THIS WAS A NEGOTIATING PROCESS WHICH WAS JUST BEGINNING, AND THAT SADAT WOULD SEE HIS SWEEPING OFFER ON SINAI AS TO A DEGREE COMMENSURATE WITH SADAT'S EPOCHAL DECISION TO COME TO JERUSALEM. WEIZMAN HAS UNDOUBTEDLY DESCRIBED TO BEGIN IN DETAIL HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH SADAT, AND THE AMIABLE ATMOSPHERE OF THOSE CONVERSATIONS, COMBINED WITH THE FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE AT ISMAILIA, SEEM TO HAVE LED BEGIN TO BELIEVE THAT SADAT WAS AGREEING WITH HIM A GREAT DEAL MORE THAN WAS THE CASE.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 011061

4. THE STORIES NOW BEGINNING TO SURFACE HERE FROM ROY ATHERTON'S BACKGROUNDER ABOUT SECRETARY VANCE'S INTENTION TO PUT FORWARD A U.S. PROPOSAL ON THE WEST BANK AND GAZA PROBLEM ONLY FEED FURTHER BEGIN'S SENSE OF BEING EMBATTLED, UNDERCUT, AND PRESSURED UNFAIRLY.

5. I DON'T WANT TO BE OVERLY DRAMATIC. BUT I AM CERTAIN THAT WHEN HE WAS AWAKENED OUT OF A DEEP SLEEP EARLY THIS MORNING I WAS HEARING HIS TRUE REACTIONS WITHOUT CALCULATION. AND THEY SIGNIFY A DEEPLY TROUBLED PRIME MINISTER, WHO BELIEVES HE HAS GONE VERY FAR AND VERY FAST AT THE EXPENSE OF THE APPROBATION OF HIS OLDEST FRIENDS AND TO SOME EXTENT HIS OLDEST CONVICTIONS. HE FEELS THAT NEITHER SADAT NOR CARTER UNDERSTAND NOR CREDIT HIM FOR WHAT HE

HAS DONE, AND ARE TAKING UNFAIR ADVANTAGE OF HIM AT THIS
MOMENT.

6. WE KNOW ENOUGH ABOUT BEGIN'S CHARACTERISTIC PERSONALITY
TRAITS TO HAVE REASON TO FEAR THAT HIS REACTION TO THESE
PERCEPTIONS WILL BE TO BECOME MORE COMBATIVE RATHER THAN
LESS. I HOPE THAT COOLER HEADS WILL PREVAIL. IN THIS
SITUATION, I BELIEVE VERY STRONGLY THAT SECRETARY VANCE'S
PERSONALITY AND FRIENDSHIP FOR BEGIN CAN BE A MAJOR
FACTOR IN STEADYING THE SITUATION. THEREFORE I THINK IT
IS DOUBLY IMPORTANT THAT THE SECRETARY RESCHEDULE HIS
TRIP AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. END TEXT. VANCE
UNQUOTE VANCE

SECRET

NNN

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 011061
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

66011

DRAFTED BY: S/S- SGOLDSMITH

APPROVED BY: S/S- O SGOLDSMITH

-----023341 161740Z /50

O 161725Z JAN 78 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 011061

NODIS

FOL TEL SENT ACTION WHITE HOUSE FROM SECSTATE DTD 15 JAN 1978 QTE

S E C R E T STATE 011061

NODIS

FOR Z. BRZEZINSKI

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 011061 ACTION CAIRO JAN 15.

QUOTE: S E C R E T STATE 011061

NODIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PGOV, IS, EG, US

SUBJECT: BEGIN'S MOOD--AN INCIPIENT CRISIS OF CONFIDENCE

1. FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM TELEGRAM WE RECEIVED TODAY
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 011061

FROM AMBASSADOR LEWIS WHICH WE BELIEVE WILL BE USEFUL
FOR YOUR BACKGROUND AND IN YOUR CONTINUING EFFORTS WITH
GOE TO CONVEY REALITY OF POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE IN ISRAEL.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

ALTHOUGH I HAVE JUST RECEIVED THE VERY WELCOME NEWS THAT
THE CABINET DECIDED THIS MORNING TO ACCEPT OUR FORMULATION
OF THE LANGUAGE FOR POINT B OF THE AGENDA, WITH THE VERY
MINOR ADDITION ONLY OF THE WORDS "ISSUES OF THE" BEFORE
"WEST BANK AND GAZA", WE SHOULD NOT BE MISLED BY THIS
FAVORABLE OUTCOME AND ASSUME THAT ALL IS ROSY HERE. MY
CONVERSATION WITH BEGIN IN THE WEE HOURS OF THE MORNING
JANUARY 15 WAS REVEALING IN THE EXTREME. AND RABBI
SCHINDLER HAS TOLD ME ABOUT HIS CONVERSATION WITH BEGIN AT
0830 THIS MORNING, AT WHICH HE WAS APPARENTLY EVEN MORE
EMOTIONAL AND EMBATTLED IN MOOD THAN HE HAD BEEN A FEW
HOURS EARLIER. THAT MOOD WILL UNDOUBTEDLY CONTINUE TO SOME
EXTENT THROUGH THE NEXT FEW DAYS AND WILL CAST SOMETHING
OF A SHADOW OVER THE WORK OF THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE,

ASSUMING IT NOW CAN BE CONVENED.

3. BEGIN'S MOOD IS COMPOUNDED REALLY OF TWO ELEMENTS:
RESENTMENT AND INCREASING ANGER AT SADAT FOR HIS PERSONAL
ATTACKS ON BEGIN IN THE LAST TWO OR THREE DAYS, MIXED
WITH A SENSE OF BAFFLEMENT THAT SADAT STILL DOES NOT UNDER-
STAND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF BEGIN'S OFFER TO RESTORE ALL
OF SINAI TO EGYPTIAN SOVEREIGNTY IN THE FACE OF RISING
AND VEHEMENT OPPOSITION FROM BOTH THE OPPOSITION HERE
AND KEY MEMBERS OF HIS OWN PARTY. BEGIN ALWAYS ASSUMED
THAT THIS WAS A NEGOTIATING PROCESS WHICH WAS JUST
BEGINNING, AND THAT SADAT WOULD SEE HIS SWEEPING OFFER
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 011061

ON SINAI AS TO A DEGREE COMMENSURATE WITH SADAT'S EPOCHAL

DECISION TO COME TO JERUSALEM. WEIZMAN HAS UNDOUBTEDLY DESCRIBED TO BEGIN IN DETAIL HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH SADAT, AND THE AMIABLE ATMOSPHERE OF THOSE CONVERSATIONS, COMBINED WITH THE FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE AT ISMAILIA, SEEM TO HAVE LED BEGIN TO BELIEVE THAT SADAT WAS AGREEING WITH HIM A GREAT DEAL MORE THAN WAS THE CASE.

4. THE STORIES NOW BEGINNING TO SURFACE HERE FROM ROY ATHERTON'S BACKGROUNDER ABOUT SECRETARY VANCE'S INTENTION TO PUT FORWARD A U.S. PROPOSAL ON THE WEST BANK AND GAZA PROBLEM ONLY FEED FURTHER BEGIN'S SENSE OF BEING EMBATTLED, UNDERCUT, AND PRESSURED UNFAIRLY.

5. I DON'T WANT TO BE OVERLY DRAMATIC. BUT I AM CERTAIN THAT WHEN HE WAS AWAKENED OUT OF A DEEP SLEEP EARLY THIS MORNING I WAS HEARING HIS TRUE REACTIONS WITHOUT CALCULATION. AND THEY SIGNIFY A DEEPLY TROUBLED PRIME MINISTER, WHO BELIEVES HE HAS GONE VERY FAR AND VERY FAST AT THE EXPENSE OF THE APPROBATION OF HIS OLDEST FRIENDS AND TO SOME EXTENT HIS OLDEST CONVINCTIONS. HE FEELS THAT NEITHER SADAT NOR CARTER UNDERSTAND NOR CREDIT HIM FOR WHAT HE HAS DONE, AND ARE TAKING UNFAIR ADVANTAGE OF HIM AT THIS MOMENT.

6. WE KNOW ENOUGH ABOUT BEGIN'S CHARACTERISTIC PERSONALITY TRAITS TO HAVE REASON TO FEAR THAT HIS REACTION TO THESE PERCEPTIONS WILL BE TO BECOME MORE COMBATIVE RATHER THAN LESS. I HOPE THAT COOLER HEADS WILL PREVAIL. IN THIS SITUATION, I BELIEVE VERY STRONGLY THAT SECRETARY VANCE'S PERSONALITY AND FRIENDSHIP FOR BEGIN CAN BE A MAJOR FACTOR IN STEADYING THE SITUATION. THEREFORE I THINK IT IS DOUBLY IMPORTANT THAT THE SECRETARY RESCHEDULE HIS TRIP AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. END TEXT. VANCE
UNQUOTE VANCE UNQTE CHRISTOPHER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, NEGOTIATIONS, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE011061
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MSTERNER/HLK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P840148-1470
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780161/aaaabzwr.tel
Line Count: 365
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 419f63e3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 7
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3772652
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BEGIN'S MOOD--AN INCIPIENT CRISIS OF CONFIDENCE
TAGS: PGOV, PBOR, IS, EG, US, XF, (BEGIN, MENACHEM)
To: CAIRO
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/419f63e3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014